Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Second Ave.
Marlinton, W. Va.

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THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY.

The town of Hillsboro is located in a rich and beautiful valley. It is two and one-half miles from the nearest railroad station called Seebert, and named in honor of a family by that name that settled here in the wilderness in the early days. Hillsboro was named for Richard Hill, the pioneer from North Carolina, who built his home on a good farm in the neighborhood of Lobelie. His house was an unusually good one for that age. It was built of hewed logs, and the space between the logs was filled with mortar or mud and then whiteweshed. It had three porches, two tall chimneys, and eight rooms. Hills Creek was named for Mr. Hill and because of his sterling worth, will sing of his glory as long as its waters flow. The creek flows through a narrow channel which increases its velocity until it plunges over a precipice sixty or more feet and creating the falls of Hills Creek.

Bruffey's Creek named after the first settler, John Bruffey, son of Patrick Bruffey, the pioneer, a revolutionary soldier under General Wayne, unites in time to flood with Hills Creek where their waters sink under Droop Mountain to appear again in the lower end of the Little Levels. Hills Creek forms Locust Creek and empties into the Greenbrier River. Many of the numerous progeny of Richard Hill founded their homes in the Hillsboro Community.

The majority of the people of the Hillsboro Community are of the Scotch-Irish descent, their chief pursuits being agriculture and stock raising. Many fine herds of cattle and sheep, from time immemorial, have been prepared for the eastern markets and at the present time the farmers are becoming aroused to the importance of pure brad stock.

Hillsboro has always been a religious and educational center. In extracts from the journal of Rev. Francis Asbury we find that in the years 1788, 1790 and 1796, he made three evangelistic tours through this section of the country coming up through Greenbrier County each time and being entertained and preaching at the home of McNeel in the Little Levels, going from there to the Drinnom home in the Edray neighborhood. His course led from there to Cloverlick down through Tygarts Valley in Randolph County enroute to Morgantown. At the McNeal home lively religious discussions were indulged in by the whole community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1793. The early records of the church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure was later built southeast of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. The most distinguished ministers who served this church from 1820 to 1872 were Rev. Joseph Brown, Rev. Wm. G. Campbell, Rev. John S. Blain, Rev. Mitchell D. Dunlap, and Rev. D. S. Sydenstricker.

The new church, a frame building, was built in the town of Hillsboro, where the present church is now located, in the early ministry of Dr. D. S. Sydenstricker. He was

succeeded by Rev. J. C. Johnson. The frame church was torn down in 1910 and a new church was built. A new brick church now occupies the site and bears the name "Oak Grove Church" in memory of the pioneer church although surrounded by a maple grove.

In the early part of the eighteenth century a very important educational work flourished in what was then the village of Hillsboro. Under the supervision of Rev. Jos. Brown the brick Academy was built and contained one large central room and two wings. The name of Hillsboro was abandoned in deference to that of "Academy", so strong was the school's influence on the minds and hearts of the people. In recent years the old name Hillsboro has been restored to the town.

M. A. Dunlap of Ponca City, Oklahoma, remembering conversations heard in the home of his uncle Rev. M. D. Dunlap, thinks the first teacher ever in the Hillsboro Community was a man by the name of Keenan, who taught more than a hundred years ago. This teacher was considered a very learned man from the fact that he could read and write, and had figured in the arithmetic as far as the rule of three. The next teacher was the Rev. John S. Blein, a Presbyterian preacher, a teacher, and a physician. Next came Rev. Joseph Brown whose gentle Christian spirit greatly endeared him to the people. It is thought that as he was instrumental in building the new brick building that he was the first teacher within its walls. Rev. M. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1835 to 1845. His school had a wide reputation among

his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and Irwins of Kanawha County. The were also pupils from Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Bath, and Highland Counties. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the aid of the more advanced pupils, notably, Rev. Wm. T. Price and Rev. James Haines.

Mr. Kelso of Pennsylvania, and Miss Priscilla Ramsey of Augusta County, Virginia, taught one session, and after the close of school were married, and went to western Pennsylvania to conduct a boarding school. Rev. Daniel A. Penick filled the position of teacher one year, boarded at Colonel Paul McNeel's, and the following autumn married the latter's eldest daughter. Rev. Emerson taught two sessions, boarded at Colonel McNeel's and made a compass that ran a perfect line from the McNeel gate to the Academy. Miss May Sprinkle taught in the home of Colonel McNeel the first year of the Civil War and was betrothed to John Burgess the first man from this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through this country.

From the foregoing, it is easy to understand why so many notable people came from this fine institution of learning. The lives of Mr. Harmanius Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, came to this country when it was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their piety accomplished much good in this land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius

Stulting , eldest son in the family, wee a fine teacher for many yeers, and died not so meny years ago. Mrs. Carrie Stulting Sydenstricker, a deughter of the family, geva her life es a missionary in China, being sent as a member of the Oak Grove Church. She wes the wife of the missionary, Andrew Sydenstrioker end the mother of the famous novaliat, Pearl Buck.

The first permanent settler in tha Hillsboro community was John McNeal of Fredarick County, Virginia. He came here in the year 1765.

John McNeel built the Whita Pole Church on the hill set apart for the McNeel cemetery, the first church in tha community.

In the northern section of the Hillsboro community we have Mill Point, a small industriel village, including within its limits propar a store, a blacksmith shop, two flour mills, and three homes. Just above the villege is a wonderful spring. The spring gushes forth ao ebundantly that it forms a miniture catarect. The water is so pure end cold thet it is called the Blua Spring. There is a tradition that herds of buffelo formerly gatherad in the valley facing the apring end drenk from this weter, end that it was from the stemping of the buffalo that "Stamping Creek" derived its name. Two of the tribes of Indians that frequented this region were the Ottawas and the Shawnees. Pontiac and Cornstalk were among their leaders. The death of the Bridger boys is the most dramatio atory or Indian cruelty we know or in conneotion with the Mill Point fort.

The people who live in the Hillsboro community are, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Merriman, Cleudenen, Murrays, [illegible], [illegible], Clutters, [illegible], Harpers, Ellenisons, Wades, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Smiths, Castleys, Buchanans, McLaughlins, and others.

[illegible] the perfect [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] scrubbed. [illegible] for [illegible] ill, and, [illegible] its waters flow". The creek [illegible] through [illegible] its velocity until it plunges over a precipice [illegible] a perfect spray and creating the beautiful Falls of Mills Creek.

Bruffeys Creek, named after the first settler, John Bruffey the pioneer, [illegible] soldier under General [illegible] Mills [illegible] lower end of the [illegible]

[illegible] ity of the people [illegible] were [illegible] pursuits being agricultural [illegible] ens or [illegible]

Mrs. Nellie F. Yeager

[illegible] and hills as the entire as proclaim [illegible] "[illegible]ve." It also holds historic ground, for [illegible]

[illegible] ber 6, [illegible]

[illegible] always been a religious and social center. [illegible] have built [illegible] to the [illegible] Church, which was [illegible] have since built [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] Portable, commodious buildings [illegible]

[illegible] of Rev. Francis Asbury, we [illegible] 17[illegible], [illegible] delistic tours through the [illegible] and being entertained [illegible] in the Little Levels, [illegible] where to the Drinnen [illegible] received so "gladly" and entertained so "kindly" in the Edray neighborhood. Its course led from there to Cloverlick, down through Tygarts Valley in Randolph County enroute to Morgantown. At the Yoheel home lively religious discussions were indulged in and the whole community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1795. The early records of the Church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure in which this sect worshiped for many years is later built [illegible] of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. In 1830 the church was reorganized and Josiah Beard, Davis Teague, and Job Jordan were elected elders. [illegible] ministers who served [illegible] Brown, Rev. Wm. G. Campbell, Rev. [illegible] and D. B. Schenstricker.

[illegible] the early part [illegible] the [illegible] Village [illegible]

[illegible] of the Methodists' [illegible]

[illegible] old [illegible]

[illegible] Clifford, [illegible]

[illegible]

le, [illegible]

was a mer[illegible] more of teacher [illegible] rs [illegible]

[illegible] very learned man [illegible]

[illegible] as for as the rule [illegible].

[illegible] was Rev. John S. Blain, a Presb[illegible], a teach[illegible], [illegible] described as a large, lean, str[illegible], [illegible]

[illegible] description is somewhat contradictory, [illegible] said [illegible] appeared [illegible] the second day of school, 21 [illegible] only, [illegible] five or six each [illegible] for their [illegible]. [illegible] another [illegible] capital [illegible] [illegible] had an unstriver, reputation that had to be disciplined [illegible] use [illegible] [illegible] power. The rule of Dr. Blain was a [illegible] Roberts, sister [illegible] Roberts, who made [illegible] love with them, told that pr[illegible] scolding [illegible] the [illegible] lounge and drin[illegible] their milk. Mrs. [illegible], long [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] descendent of Pocahontas, was [illegible] next teacher. [illegible] well educated [illegible] great talents that he used only under compulsion. [illegible] a Whig, and [illegible] campaign then being conducted between a Whig and a Democrat, in which the Whig [illegible] defeated in the argument, Mr. Mackcoerts became so disgusted that he followed them to the next appointment and so completely routed the Democrat that he made it [illegible] to steer clear of his antagonist.

[illegible] next teacher [illegible] Rev. Joseph Brown, wh[illegible] [illegible] racter [illegible] to the people; and it is to be taken for granted [illegible] as [illegible] brick Academy, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Illinois [illegible] count [illegible] more accurate [illegible] prices [illegible]

[illegible] In the [illegible] of [illegible] to John Impress, the [illegible] corrupt [illegible] northern soldiers in their initial [illegible] country.

[illegible] the foregoing interesting data it is easy [illegible] so many noble [illegible] lives were molded in this fine irstut[illegible] [illegible] lives [illegible] [illegible] deserve special [illegible]. They were [illegible] of [illegible], [illegible] persecution, brought [illegible] of the deep on the rude [illegible] to dwell among us when the country was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their devoted piety accomplished much good in this land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius Stulting, eldest son in the family, was a [illegible] teacher for many years and died recently, mourned by all who knew him. [illegible] Stulting Schenstricier, a daughter [illegible] the family, gave her life as a missionary to [illegible], being sent as a member of the Grove church.

Pioneers. The first permanent settler in the wilderness of the Millsboro community was John Wheel, of Frederick County, Virginia. He was of a pugilistic temperament and in the fear that he had slain his antagonist, fled from his native home and became a fugitive who followed the trend of the Allegheny. After spending sometime in their gloomy depths he emerged into this section [illegible] country and was so favorably impressed with the fertile lands, fine timber [illegible] took a [illegible] place to dwell, that he cast his tent [illegible] where [illegible] to pick up his tent [illegible]

[illegible] wanting for venison and [illegible]

[illegible] land, who proved [illegible]

[illegible] ls to convey [illegible]

[illegible] ever, [illegible]

[illegible] their marriage the [illegible]

[illegible] them a Welch Bible now in the possession [illegible]

[illegible] William Lamb McNeel.

[illegible] McNeel is the man who offered, free of charge, [illegible]

[illegible] State Capitol. This stone exists in great abundance [illegible]

[illegible] these mountains and that shelter our valleys [illegible]

[illegible] great disappointment to many to have seen [illegible]

[illegible] that had been accepted would have filled [illegible]

[illegible] place pride.

[illegible] McNeel was so deeply impressed [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] or fifteen

[illegible]

[illegible] is [illegible] ple church, which [illegible] t [illegible] or [illegible] country.

[illegible] northern section of the Hillsboro [illegible] is [illegible] little industrial village including within its proper limits [illegible], [illegible] shop, two flour mills and three homes. Many more homes are [illegible] the hills and nestling in the coves and glens. Tourists exclaim [illegible] the sweep of the hills and their graceful contour as they converge [illegible] village enclosing a scene of surpassing beauty.

[illegible] picturesque spring, [illegible] shed [illegible] a shel[illegible] dip their feet into the laughing waters of [illegible], [illegible] fires were crossed and the[illegible] must flee.

The people who live in this community are the McNeels, Beards, Clarks, [illegible], [illegible], Bruffeys, Hills, Moores, Clutters, Auldridges, Harpers, Jennings, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], McCoys, Smiths, [illegible], Cochrans, [illegible] and others.

(In the preparation of this article the writer is greatly indebted [illegible] Price's History of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, Border Warfare, [illegible] friends and neighbors).

[illegible] - [illegible]on [illegible]